

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-11 ACDA-10 SCCT-01 /091 W

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R 151350Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 619

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: HAARETZ ARTICLE ON SAUNDERS' VIEWS ON THE PALESTINIAN
ISSUE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE BY HAARETZ WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT DAN MARGALIT (MARCH 15) ENTITLED "SAUNDERS:
TODAY I WOULD HAVE CHNGED MY PROPOSALS."

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ADVISER ON
MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, MR. HAROLD SAUNDERS, WHO STATED
IN THE DOCUMENT KNOWN UNDER HIS NAME THAT THE PALESTINIAN
ISSUE IS "THE HEART" OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, HAS
RECENTLY SAID THAT IF HE WAS ASKED TO PRESENT A MIDDLE
EAST PLAN NOW, HE WOULD CHANGE HIS PREVIOUS PROPOSALS.

3. SAUNDERS NOW CLAIMS THAT SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF
THE PAPER IN NOVEMBER 1975, THERE HAS BEEN DECLINE OF
THE PLO'S STANDING.THE CHANGE IN THE ORGANIZATION'S
POSITION IN THE ARAB WORLD, IN HIS VIEW, IS, DUE TO
THE LATEST TROUBLE IN LEBANON, THE SYRIAN-JORDANIAN
RAPPROACHMENT, AND--WHAT TO SAUNDERS SEEMS MOST
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IMPORTANT--THE ELECTIONS IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA WHICH

PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A MOMENTUM THAT MAY PRODUCE A NEW PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP. SAUNDERS' REMARKS INDICATE THAT THE US SHOWS GREAT INTEREST IN THIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND IN WHAT MAY DEVELOP AS A RESULT OF IT.

4. THE FACT THAT MR. SAUNDERS THINKS THAT HE WOULD NOW HAVE WRITTEN HIS PAPER DIFFERENTLY WAS NOTED WITH SURPRISE AND INTEREST INCIRCLES AWARE OF HIS SPECIAL POSITION IN THE US ADMINISTRATION. MR. SAUNDERS, WHO IS CONSIDERED A EXPERT ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, DOES NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT NEW CIRCUMSTANCES MAY ARISE WHICH WILL MAKE POSSIBLE AN AMEUREMENT OF THE RABAT CONFERENCE'S RESOLUTIONS WHICH GAVE THE PLO THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS. ON THIS POINT THERE IS NO FULL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MR. SAUNDERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

5. NEWSWEEK WRITES IN ITS LATEST ISSUE THAT DR. KISSINGER'S NEXT MOVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL CONCENTRATE ON PERSUADING KING HUSSEIN TO START NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL IN SPITE OF THE RABAT BAN. ACCORDING TO THE MAGAZINE THIS WILL BE DONE DURING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AT THE END OF MARCH. END TEXT.
TOON

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